



[ SEQ CHAPTER \h \r 1]

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**Contract**

**No.: EP-W-13-015 TO**

**Office of Emergency and Remedial Response**

**Contractor: SKEO Solutions, Inc.**

**TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE DOCUMENT**

*In accepting this technical direction, the contractor agrees that the cost and all other terms and conditions of the contract remain unchanged.*

**Technical Directive: \_\_\_\_\_**



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**Task Order Project Officer:** Sheila Lewis **Phone:** 202-564-0152

**Task Order Technical Point of Contact:** Wenona Wilson **Phone:** 206-553-2148

Region 10 is requesting technical assistance for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon. The goal of the support is to give the community facts and pertinent information about their current water system, so they will better understand the system and be able to make informed decisions about its future. This TD describes the first phase of technical assistance in a possible two-phase process.

**ISSUE/BACKGROUND:** The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon (Tribe) continues to confront a complex and persistent set of challenges associated with their community water system. The Tribe has limited financial, managerial and technical capacity for a water utility. Additionally, the Tribe has a need for significant infrastructure improvements to address deficiencies in the existing infrastructure.

On May 23, 2019, EPA issued an Emergency Administrative Order (Section 1431) to the Tribe due to a range of issues, including but not limited to, the failure to maintain finished water turbidity and failure to maintain microbial disinfection. The Tribe declared a state-of-emergency immediately following EPA's issuance of the Emergency Order.

The community water system serves an estimated 3,800 people. Most of the system's infrastructure was built around 1980. The aging components and inherent limitations of the original design create ongoing challenges even when the plant is operated well.

Over the summer of 2019, the Tribe made repairs to their water distribution system. On August 14, 2019, the Tribe lifted a boil-water notice that had been in-place (continuously) since May 2019.

While the Tribe has put forth a significant effort, they have a long way to go to develop and implement an integrated action plan that addresses all the challenges. Unfortunately, without some of the utility capacity issues being resolved, such as the ability to meter and charge for residential usage, the Tribe will not be able to access the largest sources of federal infrastructure funding (e.g. USDA-Rural Development funding).

In order to move to a residential metering and fee system, there would need to be a major paradigm shift for the Tribe. The Tribe has never charged its residents for water and it has not made the decision to do so. The community seems to have a mix of opinions related to this topic, although it is likely the idea of new fees would be unpopular with many.

The purpose of this first phase of the TD is not to push the Tribe toward fees or any particular decision, but rather to provide information to allow for informed decision making in the future. Community education and outreach would occur to support understanding of the current system, water usage and patterns, the challenges the system faces, and the costs associated with both the current system, and the new water treatment facility which is slated for construction in five years.

**Clarification or Comments:** Contractor/subcontractor must have experience developing communications and training materials for tribes. If the Council decides to move toward a fee system, the second phase of this technical directive could involve workshops around metering, fee structures, ability to pay considerations, timing, etc.

**Deliverables:** Products would be developed to: promote understanding of where the water comes from and how it moves through the system; understand how much water is currently being used by the community and how it compares to other similar-sized communities; convey information about why the current system continues to break and why it is so challenged; and assist in understanding water system costs. Engagement would occur with the Tribal Council and the community to share materials, provide further education, and to seek input from those groups on their satisfaction with the current system and their recommendations for the future.

- (1) Facilitate public meeting/workshop for community. The session needs to be interactive and engage the participants. Contractor will publicize the session in advance, reserve meeting space, and address other logistical issues. Date: March 2020.
- (2) Facilitate public meeting/workshop for Tribal Council. The session needs to be interactive and engage the participants. Contractor will publicize the session in advance, reserve meeting space, and address other logistical issues. Date: March 2020.
- (3) Develop fact sheet for public sessions. The fact sheet must meet the criteria under "Deliverables: Products" above.
- (4) Develop presentation for community public meeting/workshop. Must meet criteria under "Deliverables: Products" above.
- (5) Develop presentation for Tribal Council public meeting/workshop. Must meet criteria under "Deliverables: Products" above.
- (6) Develop method(s) for getting input from participants on their satisfaction with current water system and recommendations for the future.
- (7) Develop large posters with graphics of current community water system, for use in public sessions.

**Timeframe:** Start Date: as soon as facilitator/contractor are available. Goal is for public sessions to take place in March 2020.

End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that this Technical Directive Document does not request services that are inherently governmental functions and that it does not alter the (1) Statement of Work; (2) Level-of-Effort; or (3) Cost of performing the authorized work for the above-referenced Work Assignment.**

**TOM Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Original to Contractor - Contractor Receipt: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

cc: Project Officer (5204P)

TOPO File